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Impresses Banker in Personal Conference.

ARTHUR WOODS CALLER

Evades Direct Question as to
Position, Possibly in Navy
Department.

Club Creates Honorary List to Honor Harding

PRESIDENT-ELECT Warren G. Harding, last night was elected as the first honorary member of the National Republican Club. The by-laws were revised so as to permit honorary members, a class which the club has never had before.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald. ST. AUGUSTINE, Feb. 15.—President-elect Harding, in his efforts to adjust the relations with the allied governments growing out of allied indebtedness incurred during the war, will not be hampered by any commitments of the Wilson Administration. He will have an absolutely free hand in disposing of these fiscal affairs.

During the Paris peace conference no assurance, intimation or suggestion ever was made that America might cancel the loans she made to the Allies.

Such statements were made to-day without qualification to Mr. Harding by Thomas W. Lamont, financial adviser to the American delegation in Versailles. These statements represent an apparent contradiction of others credited to Secretary Houston and they were made public with Mr. Harding's approval.

Mr. Harding conferred with Mr. Lamont for nearly two hours, and at the end Mr. Lamont gave out this statement:

"I found that President-elect Harding wished to ask me about certain phases of the international financial situation which had come under my observation during my attendance at the peace conference in Paris in 1919. I found, too, that Senator Harding himself has been giving serious thought to the same situation, and I may say at once that his view is both sane and reassuring. He began by disclaiming any ability as a financier, but I must say that many of his suggestions were practical and showed the result of careful, cool and friendly analysis.

No Secret Understandings.

"In my turn I was able to assure the President-elect that there is absolutely no truth in the statement being constantly repeated to the effect that at the peace conference in Paris there was some secret understanding between President Wilson and his advisers on the one hand and the French and British representatives on the other to the effect that the allied indebtedness to the United States should in whole or in part be cancelled.

"It is only fair to say that from start to finish of the peace conference President Wilson and his advisers, without exception, opposed vigorously and finally any such suggestion of cancellation. To repeat, there was no commitment, expressed or implied, near or remote, moral or otherwise, as to the handling of the Allies' indebtedness to the United States. I was able to assure Senator Harding from my knowledge of what took place in the peace conference, that as to his future policy in this whole matter he is as free and as untrammelled as air.

"Having said this, I want to add that the President-elect showed, as I have said, a keen interest in the whole situation, and from his expressions I clearly gained the idea that if, in the future, the time comes for dealing with these questions of international indebtedness he intends to handle them with an eye to the welfare of the United States and in a large sense of the world generally."

Harding Well Informed.

Besides being the financial adviser of the American delegation at the peace conference, it will be remembered that Mr. Lamont's firm acted in the capacity of purchasing agent for the allied governments during the war. His statement that Mr. Harding's suggestions for the settlement of the indebtedness problem showed the result of "careful, cool and friendly analysis" led to a request to intimate what these suggestions might be. Mr. Lamont said this information would have to come from Mr. Harding.

Mr. Harding spent some time to-day in conference with Will H. Hays, chairman of the Republican National Committee, who is slated to be Postmaster General. As Mr. Harding expressed it, their talk covered everything from taxation to espionage.

Col. Arthur Woods, former Police Commissioner of New York city, is here for a conference with Mr. Harding to-morrow. His presence led to the belief he might be asked to accept a place in the new Administration, perhaps Assistant Secretary of War. Col. Woods, however, made it plain to The New York Herald he was not seeking the job. His appointment with Mr. Harding was made several weeks ago and involved no suggestion of his acceptance of any office. Col. Woods, however, accepted a direct question whether he would accept a place with the Administration should it be urged on him.

T. V. O'Connor, president of the International Association of Longshoremen, whose name has been mentioned in connection with the Secretaryship of the Department of Labor, will also see Mr. Harding to-morrow. Mr. O'Connor will urge the appointment of a recognized union labor man to the place. He does not believe James J. Davis of Erieburg, whose name also has been mentioned in connection with this Cabinet place, meets that qualification. He also believes that Representative John T. Nolan of California, also among the possibilities, should at this time give up his place as chairman of the labor committee of the House.

A. H. Smith, president of the New York Central Railroad, was another of the day's arrivals. Chauncey M. Depew, chairman of the board of the New York Central, is here, but his presence is not believed to have any particular significance, as he has been coming to St. Augustine every winter for many years. Mr. Smith, however, is expected to have a conference with Mr. Harding to-morrow when he will discuss matters concerning the settlement of the government's indebtedness to the railroads, which already has been laid before Mr. Harding in detail by railroad men who were here last week.

BORAH SEEKS TO FORCE VOTE ON NAVAL HOLIDAY

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald.

New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.

AN effort is to be made by Senator Borah to force a Senate vote on the proposal for a conference of the United States, Great Britain and Japan looking to a five year naval holiday. He has offered his resolution, recently reported by the Committee on Foreign Relations, as an amendment to the Naval Appropriation bill. It reads:

"That the President be authorized and requested to invite the governments of Great Britain and Japan to send representatives to a conference which shall be charged with the duty of entering into an understanding or agreement by which the naval building programme of each of said governments shall be substantially reduced annually during the next five years to such an extent and upon such terms as may be agreed upon, which understanding or agreement is to be reported to the respective governments for approval."

Republican leaders have not been disposed to allow a vote on the resolution because they think any move so intimately related to the future foreign policy should be deferred until President Harding's foreign policy is revealed.

Senator Borah is aware of this feeling and is understood to have offered his amendment to the naval bill to-day so that he can force it to a vote. The probability is that a point of order will be made against it, and as it is subject to this parliamentary objection a vote can be avoided. Nevertheless it will lead to much discussion and will still further delay the passage of the appropriation bills, which Mr. Harding has requested be completed before March 4.

REFUTES CHARGE OF SENATE INCREASES COAL PROFITEERING TARIFF ON SUGAR

Elmira Man Denies Accusation

Made by Director of Association.

Special Dispatch to The New York Herald.

New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 15.

Sensational charges made several months ago by George Cushing, managing director of the American Wholesale Coal Association, to the effect that the Reconstruction Committee that Government officials were profiteering in coal and had offered him a commission of \$100,000 if he would locate 400,000 tons of coal to be sold to foreign governments were proved to-day to be without foundation. The matter was cleared up at a special session of the committee to-day.

The alleged Government conspirator proved to be D. W. Smith of Elmira, N. Y., who for a time during the war and after the armistice served without pay in the employment of the Labor Department trying to locate labor to work on war contracts. He did some work also in the Treasury Department in sending out Liberty loan posters to coal operators.

He explained that while in the Labor Department he furnished some information as to the organization of the department to an official of the Chilean public, and that he learned and the Brazilian Government wanted to buy coal. He tried to locate it and said that friends of his in other departments, fellow workers, also tried to help him find customers, but although he tried for two years he never got the customers, never sold the coal, and, as a matter of fact, is still trying to make the deal.

He said Mr. Cushing promised to help him locate the coal, but that he chased the operator whose name Cushing furnished him without ever locating him. He said he had not expected to make more than ten cents a ton on the coal. He admitted that he offered to divide his profits with Cushing.

Mr. Cushing himself appeared before the committee to-day, but gave no more light on the matter than he had given before beyond disclosing that Mr. Smith was the Government official he referred to. He was asked to name railroad officials who made profits in coal, but said he knew of this only by hearsay. He promised to make public the names of the men who talked to him.

Schedules on Dairy Products

Also Amended After Spirited Debate.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Senate made real progress in its consideration of the Fordney emergency tariff bill to-day, and when the eight hour session ended, it had taken up and adopted four of the nine remaining amendments which had been recommended by its finance committee.

At the close of the day's work Senator McCumber, Republican (N. D.), in charge of the bill, said prospects were good for a vote to-morrow. A vote to-night had been the object of supporters of the bill but they were thwarted by a series of speeches, some extremely heated, which delayed action on amendments.

After it became apparent that final action on the bill could not be had to-night Mr. McCumber sought to end consideration of all committee amendments. This plan likewise suffered defeat.

Among the amendments accepted by the Senate was the substitute sugar schedule proposed by Senator Smoot, Republican (Utah), for that agreed upon by the committee. The Smoot amendment would place the tariff at one cent a pound in addition to the present duty of the same amount, while the committee amendment to the House bill would have added approximately three cents a pound to the present rate.

The other amendments adopted by the Senate would provide rates as follows: Butter and butter substitutes, 8 cents a pound; cheese and cheese substitutes, 22 per cent, ad valorem; fresh milk, 2 cents a gallon, and cream, 5 cents a gallon.

Senator Thomas, Democrat (Col.), alone voted against the Smoot sugar duty, while sixty-seven were recorded for it. In joining with the supporters of the bill to put over the sugar amendment, Democratic opponents of the measure, claimed to have won a point which, it was said, will eventually cause trouble for the measure's proponents.

The near unanimous vote, it was declared, will force members of the Senate Finance Committee to hold out to the end against House conferees when the bill goes to conference. The House refused on three occasions to add sugar to FREE next to last page for opportunities in the business world. Note carefully the Help Wanted ads.—46c.

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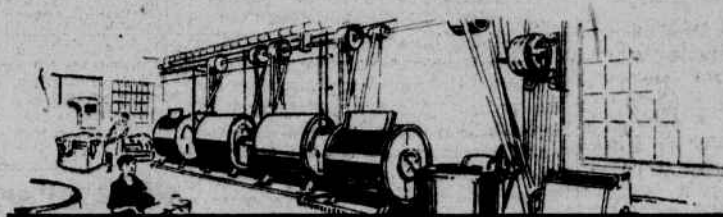
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